



Assessing an IPCC assessment: An analysis of statements on projected regional impacts in the 2007 report

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Abstract:

The Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency (PBL) has investigated the scientific foundations for the IPCC summary conclusions of the Fourth Assessment Report of 2007 on projected regional climate-change impacts, at the request of the Dutch Minister for the Environment. Overall the summary conclusions are considered well founded and none were found to contain any significant errors. The Working Group II contribution to the Fourth Assessment Report shows ample observational evidence of regional climate change impacts, which have been projected to pose substantial risks to most parts of the world, under increasing temperatures. However, in some instances the foundations for the summary statements should have been made more transparent. While acknowledging the essential role of expert judgment in scientific assessments, the PBL recommends to improve the transparency of these judgments in future IPCC reports. In addition, the investigated summary conclusions tend to single out the most important negative impacts of climate change. Although this approach was agreed to by the IPCC governments for the Fourth Assessment Report, the PBL recommends that the full spectrum of regional impacts is summarised for the Fifth Assessment Report, including the uncertainties. The PBL believes that the IPCC should invest more in quality control in order to prevent mistakes and shortcomings, to the extent possible.

Source: <http://www.pbl.nl/sites/default/files/cms/publicaties/500216002.pdf>

Resource Description

Communication: ☒

resource focus on research or methods on how to communicate or frame issues on climate change; surveys of attitudes, knowledge, beliefs about climate change

A focus of content

Communication Audience: ☒

audience to whom the resource is directed

Policymaker, Researcher

Exposure : ☒

Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Unspecified Exposure

Geographic Feature:

resource focuses on specific type of geography

Arctic, Other Geographical Feature

Other Geographical Feature : Antarctic

Geographic Location:

resource focuses on specific location

Non-United States, United States

Non-United States: Africa, Asia, Australasia, Europe, Central/South America, Non-U.S. North America

Health Impact:

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

General Health Impact

Resource Type:

format or standard characteristic of resource

Review

Timescale:

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified